Opening Statement by the President.

President.—Hon'ble Members of the Cochin Legislative Council and my good old friends:—His Highness the Maharaja having been graciously pleased to appoint me to act as his Diwan during the absence of Mr. Herbert on deputation to England to represent the State at the Round Table Conference, it is now my privilege to extend to you all my hearty welcome to this meeting of the Council. You will join with me in wishing Mr. Herbert an unqualified success in his mission and his safe return to his field of labour among us with redoubled vigour and energy.

I am only one among you—and I am proud to be so—and it is superfluous on my part to make the usual conventional request to you for help, co-operation and support in carrying out the duties of the Chair. I am confident that you will, with your characteristic generosity, accord to me your sympathetic support and whole-hearted co-operation in keeping up the tradition for dignified and orderly conduct of proceedings that our Council has firmly established. It is also superfluous for me to say that nothing is dearer to my heart than to safeguard your privileges zealously, and to maintain and preserve to the best of my ability the prestige of this House with whose functioning I have identified myself from the very beginning. (*Hear, hear*).

We have before us for this meeting a very heavy agenda which includes two important measures of legislation which have far reaching effects and which are vitally connected with the welfare of His Highness' subjects and which therefore require the very anxious and serious consideration on the part of the Hon'ble Members. I refer to the Income-Tax and Tenancy Bills.

Before commencing the proceedings of the day I crave your indulgence to refer to one important matter. It is within your memory that His Highness our gracious Maharaja announced His intention in His reply to the address presented to Him by His people on the auspicious occasion of His installation that the franchise for elections to this Council would be broadened. You are also aware that to implement this gracious announcement of His Highness, Government ordered the Diwan Peishkar to gather certain statistics about pattadars and tenants paying land revenue assessments below Rs. 10. The Diwan Peishkar having gathered the statistics, has submitted a report recently to Government. Having regard to the importance of the matter, Government have resolved to refer the whole question to a representative committee of this Council. The details of the committee and the terms of reference to it are contained in the Gov-

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ernment Proceedings on the subject, copies of which have just been circulated to the Hon'ble Members. Let us wish the new committee God-speed in the discharge of the important duty entrusted to it.

I thank my Hon'ble colleague and friend, your Deputy President, from the bottom of my heart for the kind words he has said of me, and I pray that I may deserve them by my actual conduct of the proceedings of this House.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Not only myself but the whole House.

President.—Yes, I am very grateful to the whole House. Now we shall proceed with the regular business of the day.

Questions and Answers.

Article in Mahathi—Election.

1. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether their attention has been called to the article in the Mahathi of 5th Chingam 1108 under the caption "ക ഖ കരാമ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ് by ഖഗ്ഘ ഖരങ്കി" ;

(2) have the Government made any inquiries regarding the charge made therein ;

(3) if so, with what result ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) No irregularity in the conduct of the election was found out.

Article in മാതി—Cashing of Bills.

2. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether they have seen the article "ധനം" ഖപീകരണ ശൂരത by ഖൊന്ത in the Mahathi of 5th Chingam 1108 ;

(2) whether the charge laid at the door of the Registrar of Panchayats has any foundation ;

(3) if so, what action have the Government taken to avoid such misunderstandings ?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(1) Yes.

(2) It is true that some bills were cashed in the office in the last days of Karkadagam, but there was no misunderstanding among any one and the contractors were satisfied with the arrangements made.

(3) Does not arise in view of answer to (2).

Prosecuting Inspector.

3. **Mr. K. Ayyappan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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